

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in response to the Office Action of April 24, 2003.

It is respectfully submitted that this amendment will require neither a new search nor substantial reconsideration.

In response to the rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Claim 8 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, has been overcome.

The Office Action rejected Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by the Sanborn reference (U.S. Patent No. 4,437,293). Similarly, the Office Action rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over the Sanborn reference in view of the Malin reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,138,436) and likewise as obvious over the Malin reference in view of the Sanborn reference.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

joining a first portion of a width of the first flange of each of said first and second zippers to said base film whereby a second portion of a width of the first flange of each of said first and second zippers is free of joinder to said base film, and joining a first portion of a width of the second flange of each of said first and second zippers to said cover film whereby a second portion of a width of the second flange of each of said first and second zippers is free of joinder to said cover film; (added language underlined).

Independent Claim 12 has been similarly amended.

Claims 1 and 12 therefore recite that a first portion of the respective flanges of the respective zippers are joined to the respective base film or cover film while a second portion of

the respective flanges of the respective zippers are free from joinder to the respective base film or cover film.

While the Sanborn reference refers to a zipper with flanges, Sanborn specifically states that these flanges are to improve the sealing of the zipper to the film (see col. 4, last paragraph). That is, the flanges are sealed to the film along their entire width. This is exactly the opposite of the presently pending claims, wherein only a part of the flange is sealed to the film.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that newly-amended Claim 12 is patentable over the Sanborn reference.

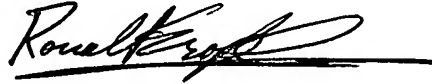
Similarly, the steps required in the claimed process are different from those in the prior art, in that in the prior art, the whole zipper base and/or flange is being sealed, which would make the use of slider operated zippers very difficult if not impossible. In contrast, in the presently claimed invention, only a part of the flange is sealed (see above-quoted language from newly-amended Claim 1) is sealed to the film.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the presently pending claims are patentable over the Malin and Sanborn references.

For all of the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that the presently pending claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw

the rejections of the claims, to enter the present amendment, to allow the claims, and to pass this application to early issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald Levy", with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

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